

HON ANDREW LITTLE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Travel April 2023: Europe and the Middle East

August 2023

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Andrew Little's travel to Europe and the Middle East to attend the Ukraine Defence Contact Group; lead the New Zealand delegation at Anzac Day 2023 commemorations; and meet with counterparts and visit New Zealand Defence deployments in the Middle East.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the April 2023 Cabinet paper and associated Minute of Decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little* [CAB-23-SUB-0118 and CAB-23-MIN-0118].
- the July 2023 Cabinet paper and associated Minute of Decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little* [CAB-23-SUB-0328 and CAB-23-MIN-0328]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:

www.defence.govt.nz/publications.

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- information entrusted to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by another country's Government [section 6(b)(i)]

Futher information is withheld to protect:

- the free and frank expression of opinions [section 9(2)(g)(i)]



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

Portfolio **Defence**

On 3 April 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Andrew Little from New Zealand from Wednesday 19 April to 1 May 2023 to travel to:
 - 1.1 Ramstein Air Base, Germany to attend the Ukraine Defence Contact Group meeting;
 - 1.2 Gallipoli and Ankara, Türkiye to represent the government at the 2023 commemoration of the Gallipoli landings, and to attend bilateral meetings;
 - 1.3 Jordan, [REDACTED] S6(a), s6(b)(i) to visit New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) deployments;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$98,004 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from NZDF and the Ministry of Defence, who costs will be met by their respective departments;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Peeni Henare act as Minister of Defence;
 - 5.2 Hon David Parker act as Minister Responsible for GCSB, Minister Responsible for the NZSIS, and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government’s Response to the Royal Commission’s Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques;
 - 5.3 Hon Ginny Andersen act as Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations;
 - 5.4 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister for the Public Service from 19 April 2023 to 20 April 2023;
 - 5.5 Hon David Parker act as Minister for the Public Service on 21 April 2023;
 - 5.6 Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Minister for the Public Service from 22 April 2023 to 1 May 2023;

6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been granted.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: GALLIPOLI, UKRAINE DEFENCE CONTACT GROUP IN GERMANY AND NZDF DEPLOYMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 19 APRIL 2023 – 1 MAY 2023

Proposal

1. I seek Cabinet's approval to travel in my capacity as Minister of Defence to:
 - 1.1. Attend the Ukraine Defence Contact Group ministerial meeting in the Federal Republic of Germany; and
 - 1.2. Represent the government at the 2023 commemoration of the Gallipoli landings and have defence bilateral calls with ministerial counterparts in Türkiye; and
 - 1.3. Visit New Zealand Defence Force | Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa (NZDF) deployments in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan s6(a)
2. Allowing for travel I would be away from New Zealand from Wednesday 19 April 2023 to Monday 1 May 2023.
3. Approval in-principle to travel has been granted by the Prime Minister and leave has been granted by the Labour Whip.

Value of this travel

4. *Attend the Ukraine Defense Contact Group Meeting in Germany*
 - 4.1. The Ukraine Defense Contact Group is a monthly meeting of defence ministers from countries providing military assistance to Ukraine.
 - 4.2. It is expected that most counterpart ministers will attend the April session in person, at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.
 - 4.3. s9(2)(g)(i)

5. *Gallipoli commemoration and bilateral calls in Türkiye*

5.1. 2023 marks the 108th anniversary of the Anzac Corps landings at the Gallipoli Peninsula during the First World War, which was a sentinel event in the development of Aotearoa New Zealand's nationhood.

5.2. [Redacted] s6(b)(i), s6(a)

5.3. MFAT, NZDF and the Ministry of Defence | Manatū Kaupapa Waonga (MoD) have strongly encouraged me to accept the invitation, and to add a day of bilateral calls in Ankara given the longstanding importance of our bilateral relationship with Türkiye and their status as a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member.

6. *Visit to NZDF deployments in Jordan,* [Redacted] s6(a)

6.1. Ministerial visits to NZDF offshore deployments are a longstanding tradition and are important both for boosting personnel morale and for informing Cabinet about facts on the ground at deployed locations.

6.2. [Redacted] s6(a)

Ministerial Party

7. I would be accompanied by one staff member from my office.

8. A modest delegation from the NZDF and the MoD would accompany me at departmental cost.

Travel Costs

9. The estimated costs of the travel (including my staff member's travel) are:

Airfares	\$48,697
Offshore facilitation (commercial rates)	\$12,000
Accommodation	\$7,618
Meals (maximum based on NZD \$85 DIA standard):	\$5,270
Surface travel:	\$8,616

Insurance:	\$1,000
Provision for document printing:	\$200
Communications:	\$300
Gifts:	\$2,000
Contingency (20%)	\$16,334
Total:	\$98,004

Acting Ministers

10. The following Ministers would act in my portfolios:
 - 10.1. Defence – Hon Peeni Henare MP; and
 - 10.2. Government Communications Security Bureau, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government’s Response to the Royal Commission’s Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – Hon David Parker MP; and
 - 10.3. Public Service:
 - 10.3.1. Hon Grant Robertson MP from 19 April 2023 to 20 April 2023; and
 - 10.3.2. Hon David Parker MP on 21 April 2023; and
 - 10.3.3. Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP from 22 April 2023 to 1 May 2023.

Proactive release

11. It is proposed that this paper is proactively released by the MoD with appropriate redactions in accordance with CO (18) 4 after 30 business days following return.

Recommendations

1. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:

- 1.1. **approve** the Minister's absence from Wednesday 19 April 2023 to Monday 1 May 2023 to visit Germany, Türkiye, Jordan S6(a)
[REDACTED]
- 1.2. **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$98,004 for travel expenses for the Minister and one staff member from his office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel]
- 1.3. **agree** that in the Minister's absence the following Ministers will act in his respective portfolios:
 - 1.3.1. Defence – Hon Peeni Henare MP; and
 - 1.3.2. Government Communications Security Bureau, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – Hon David Parker MP; and
 - 1.3.3. Public Service:
 - 1.3.3.1. Hon Grant Robertson MP from 19 April 2023 to 20 April 2023; and
 - 1.3.3.2. Hon David Parker MP on 21 April 2023; and
 - 1.3.3.3. Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP from 22 April 2023 to 1 May 2023.
- 1.4. **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Defence | Manatū Kaupapa Waonga

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

Portfolio Defence

On 24 July 2023, Cabinet **noted the report from Hon Andrew Little under CAB-23-SUB-0328 on his travel, from 19 April to 1 May 2023, to:**

- 1 Ramstein Air Base, Germany to attend the Ukraine Defence Contact Group meeting;
- 2 Gallipoli and Kayesri, Türkiye to lead the New Zealand delegation at the Anzac Day 2023 commemorations and related events and hold bilateral meetings;
- 3 Jordan [REDACTED] s6(a) to visit New Zealand Defence Force deployments and hold bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Frankfurt, Germany; Çanakkale and Kayseri, Türkiye; [redacted] S6(a) and Amman, Jordan over 19 April to 1 May 2023. The purpose of my travel was to attend the Ukraine Defence Contact Group; lead the New Zealand delegation at Anzac Day 2023 commemorations; and meet with counterparts and visit New Zealand Defence Force deployments in the Middle East.

Report

Germany

1 I travelled to Germany over 20-22 April to represent New Zealand at the 11th Ukraine Defence Contact Group (UDCG) at Ramstein Air Force Base. My attendance in-person at this meeting was well-received by colleagues and allowed me to emphasise New Zealand's continued commitment to support Ukraine as part of the ongoing international response to Russia's illegal war of aggression.

2 This meeting was the one-year anniversary of the UDCG process designed to support coordination of equipment and supplies to Ukraine's war effort. S6(a)

[redacted] s6(b)(i)
[redacted] . There was
strong unity in messaging of support for Ukraine s6(a), s6(b)(i)
[redacted]

3 The meeting attracted high level participation with over 30 countries represented, mostly at Ministerial level (20) and senior defence force representatives. The meeting was chaired by United States' Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin. Others in attendance included Ukraine's Minister of Defence Oleksii Reznikov, Germany's Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, UK's Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, Canada's Minister of Defence Anita Anand and U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley. The EU's High Representative Josep Borrell attended virtually as did representatives from Japan and Korea.

4 During my time at the UDCG, I had bilateral meetings with NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg and Ukraine's Minister of Defence Oleksii Reznikov, and engaged with Canada, US, UK, and Netherlands counterparts among others [redacted] s6(b)(i), s6(a)

[redacted] s6(a), s6(z)(g)(i)

S6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

- 5 In my discussion with Minister Reznikov, he commenced by stating that Ukraine could 'feel New Zealand's support'.

S6(a)

Türkiye

- 6 The purpose of my visit to Türkiye over 22 – 26 April was to lead the New Zealand delegation at Anzac Day 2023 commemorations. This was attended by nearly 2,000 New Zealanders and Australians, and was the largest since the centenary. Anzac Day commemorations – including a joint Dawn Service at the Anzac Commemorative Site, an Australian Memorial Service at Lone Pine and a New Zealand Memorial Service at Chunuk Bair – were all held on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 2023.
- 7 This followed additional commemorations for the 108th anniversary of the Gallipoli Campaign/Çanakkale Battles held on 24 April, which included a Turkish service at Mehmetçik Şehitler Abidesi, a French service at Morto Bay and a Commonwealth and Ireland service at Cape Helles.
- 8 On 23 April, a Ceremony of Rededication and Remembrance took place at the New Zealand "Maori Pah" site. The site was "rediscovered" during an archaeological survey in the lead-up to the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign. In 1915, the Māori Contingent of the New Zealand Expeditionary force (the first Māori unit to take part in combat outside New Zealand) was based at the site, which became known as the "New Zealand Maori Pah" (the traditional spelling used at the time has been retained in signage, following consultation). During her attendance at Anzac Day 2022, then-Minister of Veterans' Affairs agreed with Kaşdemir to create an information panel and signs at the site, which the Gallipoli Historical Sites Directorate (GHSD) has since installed, along with a path to the site.
- 9 During the course of the commemorations on 23 and 24 April, I had pull-aside meetings with Turkish Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ahmet Misbah Demirjan, and the President of the GHSD, İsmail Kaşdemir. These meetings provided me with an opportunity to convey New Zealand's thanks for Türkiye's willingness to host Anzac Day, especially in light of the devastating earthquakes of 6 February. I also undertook a bilateral meeting with Hon Matt Keogh, Australian Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel on 24 April.

s6(b)(i)

10 Following my attendance at ANZAC Day 2023 commemorations at Gallipoli, I travelled to Kayseri to meet with my Turkish counterpart, Hon Hulusi Akar, on 26 April.

s6(b)(i), s6(a)

[Redacted]

S6(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Jordan

15 The final leg of my overseas trip was to Jordan over 28-29 April. This provided me with an opportunity to visit Operation Gallant Phoenix (OGP). OGP was launched in 2013 with the initial aim of tracking the flow of foreign terrorist

Released by the Minister of Defence

fighters in and out of Iraq and Syria. New Zealand joined in 2014 and witnessed its evolution into a platform where partners collect and share information and intelligence about potential and existing terrorist threats. OGP is now made up of a large number of countries and a variety of agencies,

S6(a)

- 16 My visit to OGP was timely given New Zealand's multi-agency deployment was recently extended by Cabinet until September 2025

S6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- 17 During my time in Jordan, I also met with Jordanian Armed Forces Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Yousef Hunaiti,

s6(b)(i), s6(a)

Proactive release

- 18 I intend that the Ministry of Defence | Manatu Kaupapa Waong will proactively release this paper subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

- 19 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Germany, Türkiye, and Jordan over 17 April to 1 May.

S6(a)

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Andrew Little

Minister for Defence